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1. In 1945-46, the government enacted the law for the General Mobilization of Labor. Men, up to the age of 55, and women, up to the age of 45 who had no small children, were required to be employed. The unemployed were supposed to register with the local labor exchange in order to be assigned to a job. The registration was also to be used to re-distribute the labor force by sending workers to areas where they were most needed. These provisions were rarely invoked before 1949. Since that time workers have been compelled to register; there are no restrictions on where they may be assigned. Under previous laws, youths leaving school at 14 or 15 years of age were free to choose their apprenticeships within the quota set by joint meetings of the local artisans and the labor exchange. Now youths are assigned by the labor exchange.

2. From 1946 to 1949, it was the policy to give employees the maximum amount of leave. In industry, annual vacations were based on seniority; the minimum was two weeks. There were legal provisions for emergency leave and social insurance compensation was paid to those who were ill. Leave provisions have become less liberal and more complicated. Although the legal provisions for sickness compensation have not necessarily been changed, it is difficult for workers to get the necessary medical certificate because doctors are allowed to certify as unfit only a small proportion of their patients.

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3. Even in 1947, the government had begun to set work norms for all types of labor. Although productivity was below the prewar level, norms were not set high because productivity was not the first concern. Since 1948, norms have been based on the performances of outstanding workers under specially arranged, favorable conditions (Stakhanovites). Productivity is still below the prewar level. The difference between wage levels is being increased through successive changes in wage rates. For example, before August 1950, the chief of a department in the government service earned four or five times as much as his typist; since that time the chief might receive 15 times as much. It was customary for workers to get a so-called "thirteenth month's" pay as a bonus at Christmas, which actually was equal to at least two weeks pay. At Christmas 1951, no one was paid a bonus who was earning more than 3,000 crowns a month, a very low wage.
4. Trade unions no longer act to obtain redress of grievances for workers. The general airing of grievances which sometimes takes place in factory trade union meetings may help from a psychological standpoint. There are labor courts, but allegedly access to them could be obtained only through a good personal contact.
5. Resentment has been engendered by these conditions, but revolution is not likely because of lack of organization and arms. Under such conditions, even strikes have become less likely. Some say that, in a way, the German occupation was better because one knew that he could rely on all but the Germans and a few others, but now no one can be trusted. There is only mental resistance, and that will be broken in five or 10 years.

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